

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on February 26, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

No claims are amended, canceled, or added; as a result, claims 18-44 are now pending in this application.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 18-44 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 20-46 of co-pending Application No. 09/942,201.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 18-44 are not claiming the same invention as that of claims 20-46 of copending Application No. 09/942,201.

Claims 18-44 of this Application are directed to a memory device including memory cells, internal circuitry, interconnects, and metal contacts, and other elements.

Claims 20-46 of the copending Application No. 09/942,201 are directed to a system of high-conductivity metal alloy contacts.

Thus, the claims of this Application and the claims of the copending Application No. 09/942,201 are not claiming the same invention. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of same invention double patenting be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 18-44 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative (612-373-6969) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL A. FARRAR ET AL.

By their Representatives,

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Date 5-27-03

By 
Viet V. Tong
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O.Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 27th day of May, 2003.

Amy Moriarty
Name


Signature



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: **Farrar et al.**

Title: **THERMAL PROCESSING OF METAL ALLOYS FOR AN IMPROVED CMP PROCESS IN
INTEGRATED CIRCUIT FABRICATION**

Docket No.: **303.469US3**

Serial No.: **09/945536**

Filed: **August 30, 2001**

Due Date: **May 26, 2003**

Examiner: **C Everhart**

Group Art Unit: **2825**

MS Non-Fee Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O.Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

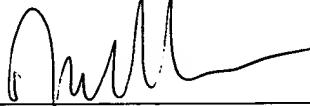
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We are transmitting herewith the following attached items (as indicated with an "X"):

A return postcard.
 An Amendment and Response (8 Pages).

If not provided for in a separate paper filed herewith, Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for sufficient number of months to enter these papers and please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

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